

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

/158 W

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R 281524Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5888

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13878

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TC, UK, XF

SUBJECT: BRITISH-UAE RELATIONS AND THE ARAB SUMMIT

REF: ABU DHABI 1555

1. REFTTEL MENTIONED BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER'S STATEMENT THAT FCO INSTRUCTED ALL ITS EMBASSIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES TO MAKE LOW KEY DEMARCHE CAUTIONING POSSIBLE HARM TO ARAB CAUSE IF SUMMIT CONFERENCE WERE TO ADOPT INFLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH EMANATED FROM 1967 SUMMIT AT KHARTOUM. FOR THE RECORD, OUR FCO CONTACTS (HEADS OF BOTH NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENTS) DENY ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE DEMARCHE WERE SENT. RATHER, BRITISH POSITION WAS MADE CLEAR TO THESE POSTS AND (WE SUPPOSE) THEY WERE FREE TO DRAW ON IT IF ASKED.

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2. IT DOES NOT SEEM TO MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE NOW, BUT

WE DO NOT SEE WHY FCO OFFICIALS SHOULD WISH TO HIDE ANY
SUCH DEMARCHE FROM US (ESPECIALLY AS THEY MUST SUSPECT
WE WOULD HEAR OF IT ANYWAY FROM SOME ARAB SOURCE IF NOT
A BRITISH) SINCE SUCH DEMARCHE WOULD TEND TO BUILD
CREDIT FOR HMG IN US EYES RATHER THAN THE OPPOSITE.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT BRITISH IN ABU DHABI WERE GIVEN
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE DEMARCHE IN CONTEXT OF
PRIVATE UK-UAE RELATIONSHIP AND BRITISH WOULD PREFER
NOT TO REVEAL THIS PREMATURELY?

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON13878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973118/aaaaaftw.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ABU DHABI 1555
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH-UAЕ RELATIONS AND THE ARAB SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, TC, UK, XF
To: STATE ABU DHABI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005